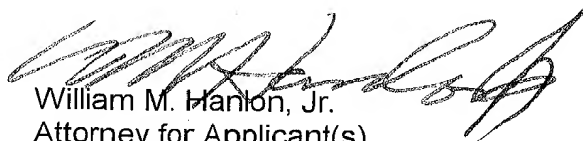## REMARKS

After entry of this amendment, claims 1 - 15 are amended to place the claims in idiomatic English and preferred United States claim format. The claim amendments are not made to address issues of patentability or art.

A hand-written, corrected copy of the specification is enclosed showing the changes which have been made to the specification as required by Section 608.01(Q) and 714.20(1) of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure. The Substitute Specification filed herewith has been amended to utilize idiomatic English, correct minor typographical and grammatical errors and to conform the application to current United States patent practice. The Substitute Specification includes no new subject matter; but does include the same changes handwritten in red in the attached, corrected, original specification. Entry of the Substitute Specification is respectfully requested.

It is submitted that this Amendment has antecedent basis in the application as originally filed, including the specification, claims and drawings, and that this Amendment does not add any new subject matter to the application. Consideration of the application as amended is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION OF CLAIM AMENDMENTS WITH MARKINGS
TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

1   1.   (Amended) [Driving device (1), mainly] <u>A driving device</u> for
2   the windshield wiper assembly of a motor vehicle, which has<u>:</u>
3   [-] a housing [(3)],
4   [-] an electric motor [(2)] located in a housing [(3)] with a pivoted
5   armature [(4)],
6   [-] a gear unit located in the housing [(3)] with a worm shaft [(6)]
7   located on a section of the armature [(4)]<u>,</u> and
8   [-] an axial thrust generating device [(8)] to compensate for the axial
9   free play of the armature [(4)],
10   characterized in that one end [(5)] of the armature [(4)] is supported
11   at the housing [(3)] through a support bearing [(7)] and that the axial thrust
12   generating device [(8)] possesses a tapered sliding member [9] which is
13   supported in the housing [(3)] movable in the radial direction relative to the
14   armature [(4)] and is supported against the armature shaft so that axial force can
15   be applied to the armature shaft [(4)] in the direction of the support bearing [(7)]
16   by moving the tapered sliding member [(9)].

1   2.   (Amended) [Driving] <u>The driving</u> device [(1)] in accordance
2   with claim 1 wherein the armature [(4)] is supported in a roller bearing [(13)] with
3   an inner race [(13′)] located on the armature [(4)] and an outer race [(13″)]
4   located in <u>one of</u> the gear housing [3 or] <u>and</u> in the motor housing.

1   3.   (Amended) [Driving] <u>The driving</u> device [(1)] in accordance
2   with claim 2, wherein the roller bearing [(13)] is located between the worm shaft
3   [(6)] and the electric motor [(2)].

1   4.   (Amended) [Driving] <u>The driving</u> device [(1)] in accordance
2   with claim 2 [or 3,] wherein the outer race [(13″)] is supported in the housing [(3)]

3   so that it is movable axially and wherein the tapered sliding member [(9)] imparts

4   an axial force to the outer race [(13″)] in the direction of the support bearing [(7)].

1   5.   (Amended) [Driving] The driving device [(1)] in accordance

2   with claim 4 wherein the fixed inner race [(13′)] is attached to the armature [(4)],

3   so that it can transfer an axial force acting on the outer race [(13 ″)] to the

4   armature [(4)].

1   6.   (Amended) [Driving] The driving device [(1)] in accordance

2   with claim 5 wherein a fixed thrust washer is located on the armature [(4)] on the

3   side of the roller bearing facing away from the tapered sliding member [(9)].

1   7.   (Amended) [Driving] The driving device [(1)] in accordance

2   with claim 6 wherein the thrust washer [(14)] is formed as a clamp ring which is

3   located on the armature [(14)] in an annular groove [(15)] formed in the armature

4   [(14)].

1   8.   (Amended) [Driving] The driving device [(1)] in accordance

2   with [one of the claims 1 to 7] claim 1, wherein the tapered sliding member [(9)]

3   is formed basically U-shaped, where the armature [(4)] runs in the gap between

4   the two parallel legs of the U.

1   9.   (Amended) [Driving] The driving device [(1)] in accordance

2   with [one of the claims] claim 2 [to 8], wherein the housing [(3)] possesses a

3   collar-shaped area [(11)] which extends radially inward, through which the

4   armature [(4)] runs and on which the tapered sliding member [(9)] is supported.

1   10.   (Amended) [Driving] The driving device [(1)] in accordance

2   with claim 9 wherein the surface of the collar-shaped area [(11)] on which the

3   tapered sliding member [(9)] is supported has a bevel which matches the bevel

4   on the surface of the tapered sliding member [(9)] on which the latter is

5   supported in the collar-shaped area [(11)].

1   11.   (Amended) [Driving] <u>The driving</u> device [(1)] in accordance

2 with [one of the claims] <u>claim</u> 1 [to 10], wherein a displacing force can be applied

3 to the tapered sliding member [(9)] by means of a spring element [(12)].

1   12.   (Amended) [Driving] <u>The driving</u> device [(1)] in accordance

2 with claim 11 wherein the spring element [(12)] is constructed as a helical spring.

1   13.   (Amended) [Driving] <u>The driving</u> device [(1)] in accordance

2 with claim 11 wherein the spring element [(12)] is constructed as a leaf spring.

1   14.   (Amended) [Driving] <u>The driving</u> device [(1)] in accordance

2 with [one of the claims] <u>claim</u> 11[to 13] wherein the spring element [(12)] is

3 constructed as a rubber spring.

1   15.   (Amended) [Driving] <u>The driving</u> device [(1)] in accordance

2 with [one of the claims] <u>claim</u> 11 [to 13] wherein the spring element [(12)] is

3 constructed as a plastic spring.